

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1 to 11 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/050291, and adds without prejudice new claims 12 to 22. The new claims conform to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

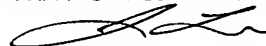
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(ii) and § 1.125(c), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. In the Marked Up Version, bold underlining indicates added text and strikeout indicates deleted text. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/050291 includes an International Search Report, dated July 30, 2004. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the translated Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

It is asserted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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